



**WORLD FORUM *on the*  
FUTURE of DEMOCRACY**

**SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2007**

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG ★ The College of  
WILLIAM & MARY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GATES, WARNER TO ADDRESS WORLD FORUM ON THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY**

*Conference to bring together world leaders, scholars and government officials from around the world*

**Williamsburg, Va. (Sept. 6, 2007)** – Two of the major players in the dramatic global events impacting the future of democracy will be among the leaders addressing a gathering of international delegates from 16 countries and other scholars and political figures at the World Forum on the Future of Democracy in Williamsburg, Virginia, on September 16-18. U. S. Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates and Senator John Warner (R – VA), the ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, are among the participants in the event, which is hosted by the Jamestown 400<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Commission in partnership with Colonial Williamsburg, The College of William and Mary, and Virginia's Jamestown 2007 organization.

The final conference in a year-long series that has brought national and international figures to ten Virginia university campuses, the World Forum will bring together noted scholars on democracy, government officials, political practitioners, advocates and commentators from around the world to examine the global advance of democracy, the challenges that emerging democracies face, and democracy's prospects for the future.

"An outstanding group of panelists will address the critical issues relating to sustaining and advancing democratic values and institutions. It will be an important and stimulating occasion," Sandra Day O'Connor, Honorary Chair, America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Justice, Supreme

**Jamestown 400th Commemoration Commission**

America's 400th Anniversary Honorary Chair, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

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Court of the United States, (retired), said. "I am looking forward to being in Williamsburg and, in particular, to welcoming our international delegates."

The international delegates include advocates for democracy and current and former government officials from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Peru, Tunisia, and many other countries. Their participation has been coordinated by the U.S. Department of State, which has helped support the conference. A youth summit on democracy held at the University of Virginia last summer to open the year-long series similarly attracted delegates from more than a dozen foreign countries and many U.S. states.

"The international participation in the World Forum, including both speakers and delegates, is among the most striking aspects of the event," said Timothy J. Sullivan, Democracy Conference Series Planning Council Chair and President Emeritus of The College of William and Mary. "Representative government began in America and spread worldwide because of a chain of events that trace their roots to the planting of Jamestown 400 years ago. That journey changed the world, and it is fitting that democratic activists from around the world are now journeying to the Historic Triangle for a dialogue on democracy's future."

The World Forum on the Future of Democracy is also the final Signature Event of America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary honoring Jamestown, Va. as America's first permanent English settlement.

"Delegates to the World Forum on the Future of Democracy conference will be given the rare opportunity to hear a distinguished group of international speakers who bring a wealth of experience and insight into the opportunities – and challenges – facing democratic institutions around the world," commented Frank B. Atkinson, Chairman of the Jamestown 400th Commemoration Commission. "The conference will also serve as a medium to learn from key leaders and scholars of the global march of democracy, and to reflect on how democracy can continue to flourish in the years to come."

In addition to O'Connor, Gates and Warner, speakers, panelists and moderators will include Timothy M. Kaine, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia; William P. Barr, 77<sup>th</sup> Attorney General of the United States; Thomas S. Foley, 57<sup>th</sup> Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; James C. Lehrer, Anchor, The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer; Kumi Naidoo, Secretary General and

**Jamestown 400th Commemoration Commission**

CEO, CIVICUS; Chang Heng Chee, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to the United States; Ali Ansari, Director, Institute for Iranian Studies, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, Ambassador Choi Young-Jin, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, New York Times Columnist David Brooks and Walter Isaacson, President and CEO, The Aspen Institute.

“Colonial Williamsburg is pleased to co-host the culminating signature event of America’s 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary,” said Colin Campbell, vice chairman of the Jamestown 2007 Steering Committee and president of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. “The World Forum on the Future of Democracy complements well Colonial Williamsburg’s focus on the critical role of citizen participation in a functioning and effective democracy. We are gratified that, among other subjects, speakers will address the vision of the Founders and its relevance in our 21<sup>st</sup> century global society.”

The World Forum program will feature a variety of formats, including addresses, panel presentations and discussion groups.

Monday, September 17, the first full day of the conference, will focus on “Architecture of Liberty,” addressing the American framers’ development of a structure for deliberative democracy, the evolution of the American system over the ensuing centuries, and the contemporary relevance of democracy in a global age.

On Monday evening at the College of William and Mary, Jim Lehrer, Executive Editor/Anchor of *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer* on PBS, will host an international dialogue entitled “The Future of Democracy: Why Does It Matter?” The event is open to the public and will begin at 6:00p.m at the William and Mary Hall on campus.

“William and Mary was, more than two centuries ago, the literal cradle and wellspring of an American Enlightenment political philosophy,” Gene R. Nichol, President, The College of William and Mary, commented. “Still today our students, faculty, staff, and alumni carry forward the promise of democracy beyond our walls. Their service to others, and to their country, makes us proud to be a part of this landmark event exploring the history and future challenges of democracy the world over.”

The second day, Tuesday, September 18, will concentrate on “Global Issues and Challenges to Democracy,” including vital topics such as terrorism and security, protection of religious liberty and minority rights, and world markets and sustainable development.

For a complete listing of speakers and panels, and for the most updated information on the World Forum on the Future of Democracy Conference, as well as for press registration, please visit [www.jamestowndemocracy.org](http://www.jamestowndemocracy.org).

### **ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE SERIES ON THE FOUNDATION AND FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY**

The International Conference Series on the Foundations and Future of Democracy is sponsored by the Jamestown 400<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Commission and is part of the *America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* commemoration. The year-long series is bringing noted democratic scholars, political commentators and governmental practitioners together at various Virginia university sites for topical sessions exploring the elements of successful democratic systems and the future of mature and emerging democracies around the world. The series concludes in September 2007 with the World Forum on the Future of Democracy at Jamestown, Colonial Williamsburg, and the College of William and Mary.

### **ABOUT THE WORLD FORUM ON THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY**

On September 16-19, 2007, the World Forum on the Future of Democracy will bring together leaders from mature and emerging democracies and noted scholars and commentators for lively exchanges on the roots of democracy and its global advance. The World Forum is the culmination of the International Conference Series on the Foundations and Future of Democracy. This year-long series of conferences explores how the principles of democracy that trace their roots back to Jamestown have been a model for countries worldwide.

### **ABOUT THE CONFERENCE SERIES LEADERSHIP**

Former Presidents George H.W. Bush and William Jefferson Clinton and former Prime Ministers Baroness Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are the Honorary Chairs of the Democracy Conference Series. Former Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Thomas S. Foley and former Attorney General of the United States William P. Barr are the Honorary Vice Chairs. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, (retired) is Honorary Chair of the *America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* commemoration, Chancellor, The College of William and Mary, and Senior Trustee, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. President Emeritus Timothy J. Sullivan of The College of William and Mary chairs the Planning Council that is coordinating the conference series under the auspices of the Jamestown 400<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Commission. The Commission is chaired by Frank B. Atkinson, and its Democracy Conference Committee is led by H. Benson Dendy, III, and John L. Nau, III.

### **ABOUT COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG FOUNDATION AND THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY**

As a Founding Colony Sponsor of events marking America's 400th Anniversary in addition to its financial commitment, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation is providing support in other capacities including new programming in its Historic Area and museums, the regional welcome center for the Historic Triangle, and new and expanded lodging and conference facilities.

Established in 1926, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation is a private, not-for-profit educational institution that receives no regular state or federal funding. The Foundation preserves and interprets the restored 18th-century Revolutionary capital of Virginia as a town-sized living history museum, telling the inspirational stories of our nation's founding men and women. Within the restored and reconstructed buildings, historic interpreters, attired as colonial men and women from slaves to shopkeepers to soldiers, relate stories of colonial Virginia society and culture — stories of our journey to become Americans. As Colonial Williamsburg interprets life in the time of the American Revolution for its guests, it also invites them to interact with history. Williamsburg is located 150 miles south of Washington, D.C., off Interstate 64. For more information or reservations, call toll-free 1-800-HISTORY or visit Colonial Williamsburg on the Internet at [www.ColonialWilliamsburg.com](http://www.ColonialWilliamsburg.com).

Founded by Royal Charter in 1693, The College of William and Mary is the second oldest college in the country. It has a long history of liberal arts education and a growing research and science curriculum that demonstrates a strong commitment to undergraduate research. The school has a student body of just over 7,500 full-time students with an 11 to 1 student/faculty ratio.

*U.S. News and World Report* ranks the College sixth among all public universities in the country. Known as “the alma mater of a nation,” William and Mary has educated four U.S. Presidents, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe and John Tyler, and claims several firsts, including the 1776 creation of Phi Beta Kappa, the country's first academic honor society, and the first collegiate law school, established in 1779. <http://www.wm.edu/>.

#### **ABOUT JAMESTOWN 2007**

Jamestown 2007, a sub-agency of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, is coordinating efforts to commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jamestown, Va., the first permanent English settlement in the Americas. The nation's first representative government, free enterprise system and culturally diverse society began at Jamestown. State, national, and international commemorative events to salute these legacies began in May 2006 and continue into 2008. Major corporate sponsors of America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary include Norfolk Southern Corporation (NYSE: NSC), Verizon (NYSE: VZ) and The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Other supporters include Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. (NYSE: BUD), AirTran Airways (NYSE: AAI), Dominion, James City County, Philip Morris USA, SunTrust, TowneBank and Wolseley PLC/Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. Contributors include the City of Poquoson and Rutherford Insurance. More information about the commemoration is available at [www.Americas400thAnniversary.com](http://www.Americas400thAnniversary.com).

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